

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 /031 W

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O 031505Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4677

INFO SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8507

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IO IR

SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REF: STATE 236006

1. MINISTER OF COURT ALAM TOLD AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 2 THAT GOI HAD NO OBJECTION TO CONTINUATION OF IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR TASK GROUP OPERATIONS AS REQUESTED REFTEL. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, NEW OR REITERATED CONDITIONS FROM GOI:

A. FUEL. ALAM NOTED IRAN HAD SOLD FIRST CONSIGNMENTS OF FUEL TO US AT MINIMUM PRICE PAID BY IRANIAN NAVY. BEGINNING WITH NEXT DELIVERY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR IRAN TO CHARGE US THE GOING MARKET PRICE FOR ANY FUEL TAKEN FOR TASK GROUP OPERATIONS. FUEL WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DELIVERED THROUGH IIN CHANNELS. ALAM WOULD MEET WITH NIOC HEAD EQBAL AND IIN COMMANDER RADM ATTAIE DECEMBER 5 TO WORK OUT FORMULA FOR PRICING AND OTHER DETAILS. AMBASSADOR ASKED THAT WE BE INFORMED SO THAT USN COULD MAKE NECESSARY PLANS.

B. PRESS GUIDANCE. IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 3, ALAM STRESSED THAT WE SHOULD MAINTAIN STIPULATED PRESS GUIDANCE COVERING AIRCRAFT AT BANDAR ABBAS. PRESENCE OF
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P-3S THERE IS TO BE EXPLAINED AS OPERATION FOR TRAINING IRANIAN

AIRMEN. VISITS OF OTHER AIRCRAFT ARE TO BE EXPLAINED AS JOINT US-IRANIAN EXERCISE. SUCH VISITS SHOULD BE NEITHER REGULAR NOR FREQUENT. LARGER AIRCRAFT (C-141/130S) SHOULD BE FLOWN TO BANDAR ABBAS ONLY WHEN BADLY NEEDED.

C. LIMITED USE OF BANDAR ABBAS. FINALLY, ALAM SAID SHAH WISHED IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD USE OF BANDAR ABBAS SHOULD NOT TAKE SHAPE AS US BASE IN IRAN. IF IT APPEARED BANDAR ABBAS HAD IN FACT, IF NOT IN NAME, BECOME US BASE, INDIANS WOULD BE LED TO EXTEND BASE FACILITIES TO SOVIETS. THAT DEVELOPMENT WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE SECURITY SITUATION IN INDIAN OCEAN.
HELMS

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